Linkle: more than just a copy

Zelda creators add another strong female role

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Anyone who played the recently-released Hyrule Warriors: Legends for the 3DS met a new character in the Legend of Zelda franchise. Linkle is young warrior that uses dual crossbows in combat and bears a striking resemblance to the franchise's usual hero.

Zelda producer Eiji Aonuma told IGN that the character first began as a little sister character for Link. This idea was scrapped due to the fact that Link has already had a sister in the series, Aryll from The Wind Waker.

In her first public appearance in the Hyrule Warriors art book, she was described as a "girl version of hero Link." I personally think that a female Link is a very intriguing possibility.

Those familiar with the series know that Link is not a constant character. There are many different incarnations of Link each possessing the Spirit of the Hero. Depending on which game the user plays, he might not even be called Link, due to the ability to change the player's name.

Following this logic, it makes sense to think that Linkle could be a new and unique incarnation of the same hero, with not only a different gender, but also a different personality and choice of weapons.

Some critics of this move attribute Linkle's inclusion with an appeal toward what some call Social Justice Warriors, a pejorative term for those who repeatedly engage in arguments about social justice.

> This new incarnation opens the possibility of a woman becoming the hero chosen by the gods to protect the land, something about which Linkle is openly passionate.

Some of these same individuals have questioned which beloved character will be the next to suffer such a fate, perhaps a female Mario or Donkey Kong.

These concerns are totally off-base. One of the reasons that a potential female version of the main character is so fitting for this franchise is that it does not require a change of lore.

Saying that Link can only be male is the same as saying that no woman can be the hero of Hyrule. This new incarnation opens the possibility of a woman becoming the hero chosen by the gods to protect the land, something about which Linkle is openly passionate. It does not take anything away from past heroes.

Courtesy of Nintendo

Linkle clad in the classic hero green attire and welding dual crossbows. Zelda producer Eiji Aonuma said she will be considered for future titles.

My main problem with Linkle, however, is her default name. I dislike the fact that the developers felt the need to attach an "le" to the end of her name.

While creator of Legend of Zelda Shigeru Miyamoto aid that Link's name is due to his role as Link between past and future, it has come to mean so much more.

A widely accepted description of his name, and Nintendo's official position, is that Link provides a "link" between himself and the player.

The changing of his name reduces the power of this link. Every hero thus far, if you have used the default name, is Link. Why shouldn't this new hero share that same name?

Aonuma said that he will be keeping her in mind for future titles and I hope this is true.

The Legend of Zelda is known for its strong female roles including Zelda, Impa and Midna. Seeing a female main character would be very welcome.

Men can be RAD too

RAD class could benefit men too

Jaraya Johnson
Staff Writer

Every semester, all of the females on campus get the same e-mail. The Rape, Aggression, Defense (RAD) class was designed for women only and is usually for three days.

The class teaches women how to handle themselves in serious and scary situations.

I think the class is needed and is necessary for all students in the Winthrop community. I believe that it's a gender inequality for males. I think it makes people assume that since men are "men," they should already be able to fight and protect themselves.

That is with the antiquated thought that women are frailer and actually need the help.

I think when these emails are sent out every year, everyone should get them because everyone should be prepared to handle situations that come their way.

When I asked a few males if they thought they should have access to a RAD class, most of them didn't even know what it was or that it existed. Females seem to think that it would be a great opportunity for them to gain more experience.

Kristan Lattimore, a freshman, was asked if she thought men should have access to RAD classes. "All men need to learn how to protect themselves too, because people do rob and harass men," she said.

> "All men need to learn how to protect themselves too because people do rob and harass men.
>
> **Kristan Lattimore**
> *Freshman business administration major*

For a while, people have been voicing their opinions on having a male RAD class.

It would cost the school more money to include a male class while having the female class. Maybe it would be best if they combine the classes and hire an instructor who can teach tactics to both the males and females.

It is obvious that in mostly everything else in the world, men are at the top and running everything.

It results in female inequality. At this point in time, I think it is the males that are experiencing the inequality now and most of them in the Winthrop community don't realize it.

Even though most males on campus don't know what the class is or what it consists of, it doesn't mean we should just brush the situation off.

I think if the males are informed when the females are, they would have a better understanding and could then decide to take the class or not.

I think the class is a necessity in the world we live in. It's both an unfortunate and fortunate realization.

This generation of ours, if we all could take the class, would be more equipped to handle different situations that may occur. Even though many harassments and abuses happen to women, there are occasions when men get harassed as well and they think they know how to handle it when the time comes but they don't.

We don't know for sure how many males actually would want to take the class because we haven't introduced it to them.

We don't know how many males want to learn to fight but they aren't able to take Taekwondo or karate to learn to fight. We don't know.

Our Say

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Perhaps you've heard about Winthrop University's take on originality. Recently, Winthrop University presented it's very first reverse career fair and we're ecstatic!

Students came out and presented themselves with poster boards, resumes and representations of their skill sets. They got to be on the other side of career fairs for a change and what a refreshing idea it was.

Many students took this opportunity to showcase all of their accomplishments here at Winthrop and we hope that this won't be a one time event. A reverse career fair is a great way to practice public speaking and on the spot interview skills as well as making a first impression on potential employers.

Underclassmen should find this encouraging because they can practice and refine these skills through more fairs like this one.

We believe that this reverse career fair went over splendidly and we hope Winthrop will decide to hold reverse career fairs as well as regular career fairs more often in the future.